

I claim:

1. A combination comprising a fold-down bed door pivotally mounted to a vehicle sidewall for pivotal movement between a vertical closed position and a horizontal open position, where the vehicle sidewall includes a seal; and

a lock assembly disposed within the bed door for drawing the bed door down against the seal and securing the bed door in its vertical closed position,

the lock assembly includes a latch part and a rotor part,

the latch part disposed within the bed door for reciprocal movement within the plane of the bed door between a locked position where the latch part extends from the bed door and an unlocked position where the latch part is retracted into the bed door, such that latch part contacts the vehicle sidewall when moved from the unlocked position to the locked position to progressively urge the bed door against the seal and secure the platform in the vertical closed position when bed door into the closed position,

the rotor part is rotatably seated within the bed door and operably connected to the latch part for extending the latch part from the unlocked position to the locked position when turned in one direction and for retracting the latch part from its locked position to its unlocked position when turned in the opposite direction,

2. The Combination of Claim 1 wherein the bed door includes a tubular channel disposed between the first skin and the second skin adjacent the side of the bed door, the channel defining an interior therein, the channel having an opening adjacent the vehicle sidewall, the latch part disposed within the channel interior and extending through the channel opening when moved between the unlocked position and locked position.

3. The Combination of Claim 1 wherein the vehicle sidewall includes a strike plate, the latch part contacting the strike plate when bed door is in its vertical closed position and latch part is moved between the unlocked position and the locked position.

4. The Combination of Claim 1 wherein the latch part is a substantially flat disc rotatably disposed within the bed door for rotation about an axis perpendicular to the plane of the bed door between a first radial position which constitutes the unlocked position and a second radial position which constitutes the locked position,

the latch part having an inclined helical peripheral shoulder whose acclivity spirals

helically about the axis of rotation of the latch part, such that the inclined shoulder protrudes from the bed door when the latch part is moved between its unlocked position and locked position and contacts the vehicle sidewall when the bed door is in its closed position.

5. The Combination of Claim 3 lock assembly also includes a key adapted to mate with the rotor part so as to facilitate the manual rotation of the rotor part and latch part.

6. The Combination of Claim 1 wherein the latch part is an elongated beam having one end with a tapered edge, the one end extends from the bed door when the latch part is moved between its unlocked position and locked position so that the tapered edge contacts the vehicle sidewall when the bed door is in the closed position.

7. The Combination of Claim 6 where the latch part has a rack, the rotor part includes a pinion operatively mated with the rack.

8. The Combination of Claim 1 wherein the rotor includes a threaded shaft, a pair of stops mounted about the rotor, the latch part is an elongated arm having a threaded bore turned onto the threaded shaft, the latch arm rotating with rotor when the rotor is turned between a first radial position where the latch arm abuts one of the pair of stops which constitutes the unlocked position and a second radial position where the latch abuts the other of the pair of stops which constitutes the locked position, the latch arm traverses along the threaded shaft when the rotor is turned and the latch arm abuts against one of the pair of stops.

9. A combination comprising a fold-down bed door pivotally mounted to a vehicle sidewall for pivotal movement between a vertical closed position and a horizontal open position, where the vehicle sidewall includes a seal and a strike plate; and a lock assembly disposed within the bed door for drawing the bed door down against the seal and securing the bed door in its vertical closed position,

the bed door includes a tubular channel disposed between the first skin and the second skin adjacent the side of the bed door, the channel defining an interior therein, the channel having an opening adjacent the strike plate, the bed door having a bore through the first skin and the channel into the channel interior,

the lock assembly includes a tubular lock cylinder seated within the bore in the bed

door,

a latch disc disposed within the channel interior for rotation about an axis perpendicular to the plane of the bed door between an unlocked position and a locked position, disc having a flat peripheral edge and round peripheral edge, the latch disc also having an inclined helical peripheral shoulder along the round peripheral edge whose acclivity spirals helically about the axis of rotation of the latch part, the inclined shoulder protrudes from the channel opening when the latch part is moved between its unlocked position and locked position and contacts the strike plate when the bed door is in the closed position so as to progressively urge the bed door against the seal and secure the bed door in the closed position,

a rotor rotatably disposed within the cylinder and axially connected to the latch disc so that the latch disc rotates between the locked position and unlocked position when the rotor is turned, and

a key adapted to mate with the rotor so as to facilitate the manual rotation of the rotor part and latch disc.